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THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014

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AGRICULTURE

Farmers have their say on greenbelt plan

ROB HOWLE
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Region's agricultural policy and action committee was given an overview Friday morning of a report into issues faced by Ontario greenbelt farmers.

Kathy Macpherson, vice-president of research and policy with the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, highlighted the results of a report by Wayne Caldwell, a professor of rural planning and development at Guelph University.

See AG on Page 2



FILE PHOTO
A John Deere combine is used to harvest a field of soy beans in Port Colborne. As soon as the soy is harvested, wheat is planted in its place.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ NIAGARA REGION

Jeffs' rate hikes aim at hydro rates

ROB HOULE

(MI) Agency Niagara

April Jeffs is ticked off at rising electricity rates.

The Wainfleet mayor asked fellow regional councillors Thursday to support her motion to ask Premier Kathleen Wynne to "take immediate action" to prevent rate hikes forecast to rise 42% over the next five years.

"I'm presenting this motion ... more as a resident and small business owner," Jeffs said after presenting her motion to council. "I do think it's something we can all agree on, we're already in a strained economy and these increases are negatively impacting our residents and businesses."

With small to medium (sized) enterprises being the backbone of the province and comprising a large portion of Niagara businesses, it's absolutely crucial that these rate increases

stop."

Councillor Andy Petrowski asked Jeffs to remove three items from her motion that referred to the costs of the Feed-in-Tariff program, an auditor general report on wasteful spending in the electricity sector, and the cost of recent gas plant cancellations.

"The most important information is that the province itself is admitting that rates are going to increase and that the last 'Whereas' it's essential that residents and businesses in Niagara have access to (affordable electricity)," he said.

"The other ones about FIT and the waste of energy and the gas plants, although they may or may not be true I guess they are to some extent — I believe the real meat of the motion is captured by our rates are going up astronomically."

"The people of Niagara can't afford it and we need to give the province direc-

I do think it's something we can all agree on, we're already in a strained economy and these increases are negatively impacting our residents and businesses."

April Jeffs, mayor of Wainfleet

tion that it's not sustainable for our ratepayers."

Jeffs said she wanted to hear from other councillors before agreeing to amend the motion.

In supporting the motion, St. Catharines councillor Bruce

"time we speak up" on the issue of rising electricity

rates.

"It's time corporations, including the Region, say there's gotta be a way to put some downward pressure on these hydro rates instead of continually supporting every project that comes along that costs far more than our hydro here in Niagara Falls."

Councillor Selina Volpatti of Niagara Falls said the problem of increasing electricity rates has been "40 years in the making" and did not want to tie the hikes to the current Liberal government.

"Many, many governments have been involved in the cost of our energy," she said.

Councillor Dave Lepp of Niagara-on-the-Lake didn't have much hope the motion would have any effect on the government.

"I'm sure the province, and the government that's there, would look at this and say, 'Thank you very much,



ROTORA

Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs asked fellow regional councillors to support her motion to ask Premier Kathleen Wynne to prevent rate hikes forecast to rise 42% over the next five years.

Region of Niagara, we've got your letter, we know what you're saying, got it! And then file it. So don't waste a whole lot of time on it," Lepp said.

Asked by Regional Chair Gary Burroughs if she wanted to remove the three

paragraphs before putting the motion to a vote, Jeffs said: "I think I'm going to leave them."

"I feel like I'm on a game show," she said, eliciting laughter.

The motion was carried 15-8.

■ AG

Farming in Niagara's Greenbelt hot topic

From Page 1

Caldwell came to his conclusions after a series of focus groups and one-on-one interviews with farmers, a survey and one-on-one interviews with government planners and a workshop with planners and municipal economic development staff.

"We asked Wayne Caldwell to take a look at what were agricultural issues in the greenbelt," Macpherson said. "Since the adoption of the plan, we would hear there were concerns about the greenbelt plan and how the greenbelt plan was affecting farmer operations and affecting, therefore, potentially affecting farmer viability. So we wanted to better understand what were those challenges and barriers affecting farmer operations."

The greenbelt was created in 2005 by the provincial Liberal government with the goal of preventing urban sprawl onto farmland and environmentally sensitive areas.

"The Friends of the Greenbelt is a not-for-profit organization whose mandate is to 'help keep farmers successful, strengthen local economies, and protect and grow natural features'."

Caldwell said there were 10 key issues of concern to farmers.

In a follow-up e-mail, Macpherson explained the main issues identified by farmers across the Greenbelt are not directly related to the greenbelt plan but are commonly experienced by farmers elsewhere in the province, or related to the near urban

location of the farms, or other particular features of agriculture in the greenbelt geography (e.g. smaller than average farm parcel size). This was somewhat of a surprise, but perhaps shouldn't have been given the range of federal, provincial and municipal policies and regulations that affect farming and farmland.

"The multiplicity and layers of regulations mentioned is perhaps not news, but the inconsistencies in interpreting provincial policies and regulations across and within municipalities and conservation authorities was striking to us. As was the difficulties there can be for farmers (or for that matter municipal staff) in resolving conflicts between rules and regulations of different ministries.

The lack of transparency and problems created with the current process for the identification and mapping of natural heritage features was an issue raised most forcefully in Niagara, focused on the incorrect identification of hydrological features; it's good news that the Region and conservation authority are now working on a re-mapping of water courses."

Caldwell's conclusion was that many of the issues highlighted by farmers and planners within the greenbelt are issues also provincial issues.

"Long-term agricultural sustainability is an issue across the province," he writes.

Caldwell said a forthcoming revised greenbelt plan needs to do a better job expressing its vision for agriculture. If

the greenbelt plan "truly has a vision of protecting prime agricultural land for agriculture, the language and resulting interpretation requires a stronger emphasis on agriculture."

Committee member Len Troup, a tender-fruit grower from Jordan who was "greenbelted," told Macpherson he was pleased her foundation was undertaking a review of the greenbelt plan.

"This was certainly long overdue," Troup said. "The resentment (to the plan) is still there, because this started out as a Toronto-driven exercise, a political exercise that worked, by the way. I mean, how can you say 'green' and not win. Unfortunately, it was done on the backs of private landowners without really any consid-

eration" for the farmer.

"You're starting to get there."

Troup said "real" farmers need to be consulted before legislation is passed.

"There are well-intended people who have no idea of the consequences. And they won't listen to us, because we have no vote — numerically, the farmers have no vote. We own all the land, but we don't have any say. You can tell I still have a chip on my shoulder."

Committee member Gracia James called for government investment in farming. She said while there has been plenty of investment in wine and grapes, there has been none in farming.

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Robit Standard

LOCAL NEWS

BUDGET

Port rec facilities top capital requests

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

The lakeside city's recreational facilities had councillors sifting through a wealth of capital funding requests Monday night.

Sugarloaf Harbour Marina, the Vale Health and Wellness Centre and the Algoport Skate and BMX Park topped discussion of the second 2014 budget meeting, which focused on new and replacement capital requests.

Council decided in June the city would take on marina operations for 2014 it had previously leased out, including boat storage and lift ins and outs.

In taking on that responsibility, Port Colborne must purchase proper equipment expected to cost about \$75,000, said assistant marina manager Mark Minor.

Revenue for boat storage has been inconsistent over the past several years, he said, but the city should see about \$28,000 in return this season.

As staff's focus remains on



In this file photo, a group of BMX riders moves through the new Algoport Skate and BMX Park at Port Colborne's Lock 8 Park.

rebuilding the customer base, it's anticipated that number will grow, he added.

An additional \$7,000 was also requested to permanently install Wi-Fi at the marina, which was available last season on a trial basis.

Similar to staying at a hotel, it's a service that customers

now expect to have at their disposal, Minor said. There's possibility of recouping some of the cost through advertising opportunities once the wireless service is up and running, he added.

Councillors approved adding the marina funds to the capital levy.

Vale centre requests included \$7,000 for sound-proofed blinds for the community room, \$18,000 for dressing room bench extension and a \$20,000 electrical upgrade to give the main floor capability to host events such as trade shows.

Details that require tweak-

ing are often noticed after a new facility is built, said Mayor Vance Badawey, who responded to councillor comments about the \$32-million building requesting further funds less than a year after its opening.

"Things are being brought to our attention now," he said, adding it's the users who are driving the changes.

Badawey recommended the upgrades be paid for through the rate stabilization fund council put in place for the centre prior to its opening.

"That's what I thought it was for, to stabilize any changes," he said.

The reserve has between \$500,000 and \$600,000, accumulated through sale of the West Side Arena and Centennial Pool properties.

Council agreed to remove the Vale centre requests from the tax levy and to fund them through the reserve.

Ward 1 Council, and Port Colborne Minor Hockey president Bill Steele said if the organization is successful in gaining an Ontario Trillium

Foundation grant, it may be able to assist with centre upgrades.

During the meeting, councillors also discussed potential for lighting the new skatepark for use after dark at a cost of \$110,000.

It was a request that came in from students of St. John Bosco Catholic Elementary School.

"To me, it's all about dollars and cents, and I just don't think we can afford to do it at this time," said Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais.

It could be a good lesson for the youths, she said, to see the city save funds over time to have the lighting installed.

Changes to the capital budget brought the potential tax increase to 4.18%, down from 4.65%.

Badawey, who wants to see further decreases made, anticipates the next budget meeting, on a yet-to-be-announced date, will be the last before the budget is passed.

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PORT COLBORNE

Warning systems sought

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

The city is looking into ways it can reach its residents in case of emergency.

Among the capital requests put before city council during Monday night's budget deliberations was a \$60,000 upgrade to council chambers that would allow for live-

streaming of all city meetings, as well as emergency broadcasts when required.

The request stems from the need for upgraded microphones required for council meetings, though staff did not recommend it be fulfilled in 2014. Council did show some hesitation at the cost, particularly because power outages do

occur during many emergencies, meaning the broadcasts would not be seen. The funding request was not added to the budget.

Port Colborne has also teamed up with Niagara Region public health to access its emergency notification system used at long-term care facilities. Through the system,

a message is sent out by phone to landlines within the city at a cost of about \$600 to \$800, said Port Colborne fire Chief Tom Cartwright. The system will not reach people without house phones or have access to cell-phone numbers, he added.

To further cover its bases, the city is looking into obtaining emergency notification

sirens that would signal citizens to a designated radio station, where more information would be provided. Cartwright believes the city may be able to acquire two "relatively new" sirens at little to no cost if a collaboration currently in the works does come through.

"There is no one system that will get everybody," Cartwright

said. "Some people don't hear properly. Some people don't see properly. You try to fill the biggest area you can."

The need for an emergency notification system was emphasized in 2010 after a diesel spill occurred in the Welland Canal and Port Colborne's water supply was temporarily compromised.

INTEGRITY

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Niagara region referendum questions

BRIAN BATY
Niagara Regional Councillor

Readers may have seen reports about possible referendum questions on the next municipal ballot in October. The discussion started out with a laundry list of possible questions but ended up leaving only two to be decided with the issue of amalgamation into a single City of Niagara and the other deal with regional transit. Debate still lingers on these two questions but other questions emerge about the entire process.

The first question to deal with is the issue of ballot ownership. The local towns, townships and cities own the municipal ballot, not the Region of Niagara. The resultant question then is: what is the cost of placing a referendum question on a ballot? Subsequently, when that pays that cost? Is it the local taxpayers in each of the 12 municipalities or the regional taxpayers equally at large? These remain questions that need to be answered before further consideration is given to referendum ballots. When the Regional Clerk researched the issue it was discovered that referendum questions could only be ones over which the municipality had a mandate. Therefore, questions of amalgamation were not permissible as no single municipality has the right to close down a neighbouring municipality. However, a vote was taken on a request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to have the Minister place the amalgamation question on the 12 municipal ballots. While it was not reported in the media, I had prepared a motion to defer consideration of these referendum questions until we received a staff report concerning the rules related to preparing referendum questions and the cost recovery related to the ballot and the counting and reporting of results. In addition I requested a cost benefit of a referendum compared to other survey methods. Unfortunately the vote was called before this motion but the request is still before staff. I believe that it is important to engage taxpayers in a responsible fashion on issues of importance to the region at minimal cost. We now find out that we must advertise and hold a public meeting to determine the precise wording of a referendum question. We also have learned that the referendum vote will only have validity if 50% or more of voters vote at the October 27 municipal election.

The vote to request the Minister to force a referendum question about amalgamation was defeated. Does anyone think that a Minister would advocate for amalgamation after the backslash to that direction under a former government? Those amalgamations were based on the potential cost-savings and we now realize that was not the case. No matter how well worded, referendum questions are so complicated for a simple referendum question. There are many alternatives to engage the public and the forming of perspectives on large issues. The triple majority vote is the ultimate way to achieve grand changes to government in Niagara especially if they are accompanied by public meetings at both the regional and local level. That is the way that should be supported by a majority of Regional Councillors. It then must receive approval from at least 6 of the 12 local municipalities and the total population of those 6 or more municipalities must exceed 50% of Niagara's total population.

Integrity

REV. THOMAS P. ARTH
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Ist week was the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It's something that began 106 years ago in 1908. It was initially established by the Roman Catholic church and Protestant church leaders jumped on the bandwagon in the late-1920s. How's that for unity? In 1941 the Protestants moved the date to coincide with the Roman Catholic observance. In 1968 the World Council of Churches, representing most of the world's Orthodox and Protestant Christians and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, representing the world's Roman Catholics, started preparing materials each year on a common theme.

For many years the Port Colborne/Wainfleet Clergy Fellowship, with which I have recently become involved again, had led services on Monday to Friday during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year, unfortunately, those services didn't happen. This is not a sign that there is dis-unity among the Christians of Port Colborne and Wainfleet. While not every church in town has always been involved, a good number of them have. The members of many of our churches do come and give witness to the unity we have in Christ.

But just what is Christian unity? It's fairly evident when you consider Port Colborne as an example. I think there are maybe doze

to 20 Christian churches in our city representing ten or more denominations, or no denomination at all. Very often they cooperate on their own souls, have little or nothing to do with each other, seeming to be closed in on ourselves.

Some of our differences are theological, but things that the average person in the pew wouldn't understand without first getting some detailed explanations. Some of our differences are in our styles and traditions of how we worship. Some of our differences were originally ethnic but many of those distinctions have disappeared over time.

But where do we find our unity? Well, sometimes when people share some of their history with the life they lived how they've changed denominations or traditions during their lives. It may have been because they married someone from another church so they switched. It may have been because they moved and there was no church for their former denomination so they just found another church. It may have been because they didn't see eye to eye with someone who maybe the pastor, at one church so they left. But in all these cases there are probably many more reasons why people might change churches. But so many people finish their story by saying, "But we all worship the same God."

There is unity, even in our diversity. The Bible says, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one bap-

tism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). While there are many different things that might divide us, or at best distinguish us from one another, we are united in the body of Christ. The Bible also says, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ, who is the head. We were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

Now I admit that I have not always found the unity that we all share in Christ. For a number of years I didn't attend our local Clergy Fellowship. Part of the reason was a bit of laziness. I didn't want to add another thing to my monthly calendar and agenda of things to do and places to be. But the bigger reason was that I found my colleagues from different churches to be too different. I preferred to be with pastors who thought like me, talked like me, worshipped like me. But I was isolating myself and I believe I was the worse for it.

Last year I made the decision and commitment to return to the fellowship with the clergy in Port Colborne and Wainfleet. I haven't missed a meeting yet. Scheduling conflicts are bound to arise at some time, but if I'm here and don't see anything else that I would want to do, I'll be there, even when it asks us, what we share, our faith in Jesus Christ, is way more important than any of the things that divide me. I thank God for my sisters and brothers in Christ in whatever church they attend. May we all look to what unites us rather than making distinctions. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.

Jobs, Bigfoot and Stephen Harper's principles

Ever read history books and wonder what it took for the French to rise up in a bloody frenzy and send their government packing in 1789?

In fact, if you're a supposedly polite and calm Canadian, you could be pushed to the point where we would drag government members through the streets in a straight-up revolution?

Well, you could think we are creeping toward that point, and those we hired to run the country had better start taking notice. See, we elected Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his crew to fix the problems created by the Liberals who during their twilight years in power began to waste tax dollars in a way that would make Imelda Marcos blush.

So what has your government done with this responsibility?

Well, according to CBC reports, it has spent more than \$2.5 million on an ad campaign promoting a jobs retaining program that doesn't exist.

You may have seen the Canada job Grant ads last spring. The program, which the Harper government unveiled as a key plank of its 2013 budget, is supposed to be a joint venture between Ontario and the provinces to give low-income Canadians up to \$15,000 for job retraining. Which would be great—if the grant was any more real than Bigfoot, the Illuminati and the Loch Ness Monster.

But it wasn't never launched. Negotiations with the provinces, which have serious

reservations with the scheme, haven't produced a deal.

But the government decided to spend millions of our dollars to advertise the program anyway.

In fact, if you're hard-core, you set aside \$11 million in tax money—which is our money—to convince Canadians through advertising that the government is an excellent job creator. Instead of using that money to actually create jobs, or to strengthen programs that are useful, they just want us think that the government is up to.

Now to be clear, before the drooling throngs of party partisans start calling me a communist, consider Harper's 2002 decision to then-prime minister Jean Chretien, whose government racked up a \$11-million advertising bill—a bill Harper has now cancelled by \$55 million.

Will the prime minister stop the waste and abuse right now and order a freeze of all discretionary government advertising?

asked Harper as leader of the opposition. Those were the days, huh?

The Liberal ad spending was ridiculous, but at least it was for stuff that actually did exist.

So what does Harper's government

mean by spending millions to advertise nothing?

The PM's spokesperson defended the ads, which were found in breach of Canadian Code of Advertising rules, saying they are selling Canadians how to take advantage of government programs... which don't exist. They might have well have been advertis-

ing homophobic dentistry or jetpacks fueled by the tears of pious barbers cuts.

As ads, they apparently worked. The government spent \$770,000 on focus groups who after watching the ads, felt hopeful they could get a job through the program... that doesn't exist.

Well, guess what, government members of the House of Commons: Your job is manifestly not up to do focus group studies on the economy, or to determine what people think. No, your job is to make sure that the think-Nike is better than Coke Classic.

You ungrateful pack of gormless boys were hired by us to govern, not to create false advertising and then when busted, tell us your complete and utter waste of tax dollars and disregard for your duty was for our benefit.

Did the ads help a single Canadian in search of a job?

No. They were nothing other than a pathetic, waxy dog-attempt to create the image that you doing something you're not.

Whoever is responsible for these ads should be held responsible for the mess that puts them responsible for the departments that put them together should be demoted to the back benches. Yes, I'm talking about you, Jason Kenney.

So you see, the government owes all of Canada an explanation and an apology. We'd also appreciate it if the tarred and feathered himself before appearing before the press, just to even the score.

Then be sure to check his news clips from 2002 and meditate on where his resolve and principles went.

OBITUARY

Frith was dedicated to community

ALLAN BENNER
QMI Agency Niagara

Marjorie Frith did her best to ensure no child went without a gift on Christmas morning.

She provided warm meals to local seniors while volunteering for Meals on Wheels, and helped keep Niagara's agricultural heritage alive as a board member for both the Wainfleet Fall Fair and Niagara Regional Exhibition.

She did her part to honour war veterans through her involvement in the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 142, and she helped people in crisis while working for the Red Cross for 17 years.

Frith dedicated much of her long life to helping her community, volunteering for area organizations.

She died Monday at Edgewater Gardens long-term care home in Dunnville.

She was 89 years old.

Stella Blanchard, Frith's longtime friend and fellow volunteer, said she first met Frith in the early 1970s when Frith joined Community Christmas Toys, concerned about the children of struggling families, particularly on Dec. 25.

"It was 40 years ago. She was one of us that started it," Blanchard said.

Following the retirement of Community

Christmas Toys founder Ed Barrett, she said Frith took over the leadership of the organization and continued in that role until her falling ill led to her 2006 retirement.

But during the many years they worked together, Blanchard said they helped as many as 500 families a year through the Community Christmas Toys program.

And that was just one of several organizations they were involved in.

"We were in everything together — the Red Cross, Meals on Wheels — I was in there with her. She's the one who got me into all this," Blanchard said.

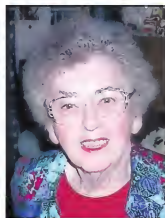
"She was quite a lady in her day. She was very smart. We used to have a lot of fun."

A visitation will be held Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. at Wainfleet Brethren-In-Christ Church at the intersection of Hwy. 3 and Perry

Rd., followed by funeral services at 11 a.m.

She will be interred at Zion Cemetery.

Frith's family has asked people to donate to Juravinski Cancer Centre in her memory.



MARJORIE FRITH



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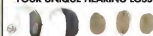
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HEALTH

Do you need a family doctor?

Residents without a family doctor are being asked to contact city hall.

Port Colborne's medical services committee, which focuses in part on physician recruitment, is trying to get a handle on demand for physicians in the community.

Providing doctors with an idea of the number of patients looking for a family physician in the community helps in the recruitment process, said Mayor Vance

Badawey.

One physician recently left the city and another declined to set up practice in Port because it seemed there was a lack of demand, he said. "If you're without a doctor, let us know," he said, urging residents to call city hall at 905-835-2900.

The committee is also looking at including an insert in residents' tax bills to put the call out to unattached patients.

Voices, Hearts & Hope Niagara Men's Chorus

In support of the

Welland & District Humane Society

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Wainfleet & West Lincoln

■ SNOWMOBILING

Teens survive plunge through ice

ALLAN BENNER
QMI Agency Niagara

Two teenagers are lucky to be alive after their snowmobiler broke through the ice of the Welland River Thursday night.

And they might not have survived if it hadn't been for a nearby resident who provided shelter in her home.

Collin Bethlehem, 14, said he was with a group of snowmobilers riding on the Welland River near the Lincoln St. bridge, at about 7:40 p.m., Thursday, when one of the five snowmobilers plunged into the frigid water.

"I was ahead a bit, and I turned around. Another guy was with me said, 'They fell through the ice, don't come near here!'" the Wellandport resident recalled. "It was pretty scary."

Bethlehem said there was nothing they could do to help without falling through the ice, but they remained in the area as their friends made their way to shore through the key water.

Karen Minkoff was enjoying a quiet evening reading a book at her Gaiser Rd. home when she heard someone desperately pounding on her door at about 7:45 p.m.

She was alone that night and felt a little anxious about answering the door.

"Someone was pounding frantically," she said.

Thinking it could be a neighbour needing help, Minkoff cracked the door open slightly to see who was there. She looked out to see two very cold teenagers — a 17-year-old boy and his 16-year-old sister.

"I could tell that they were barely able to move. He was saying, 'Can you let us in? Can you let us in?' " she said. "They were frozen. They could barely move. Their clothes were ice."

It was -16°C that night, -25°C with the wind-chill, and Minkoff said they likely would not have survived much longer.

She said the girl was so cold she couldn't use her hands, but the boy seemed to have

had some training dealing with hypothermia. Minkoff said he took charge of the situation and asked her to get some blankets while he helped his sister out of her frozen snowsuit.

"For being in shock, he did an amazing job," she said. "He was very calm and did a great thing... He took charge and got her to safety, really. He deserves a much credit."

Nate Sapper was driving along Colbeck Dr. and saw the two teenagers as they reached the top of the river bank.

"They were screaming and panicking and waving," she said. "It honestly scared me at first, but then I saw they were soaked and wet and carrying a helmet."

She said she stopped her car and told them to get in, but the boy refused.

"He said, 'No, we're soaked and

wet,'" she recalled. "I said, 'It doesn't matter, get in my car.' They were panicking and the girl was screaming and crying. They weren't thinking. They were obviously in shock and they were just running."

She said she told them to go to a nearby home, where they could get warm, and went to pick up her husband and returned to the area to make sure the teenagers were safe.

She found them at Minkoff's home.

Minkoff said the teenagers told her they had knocked on another door prior to hers, but a woman turned them away.

Minkoff said she doesn't blame the other homeowner for not letting the teenagers in.

"I think that woman might have been home alone," she said. The teenagers "thought she was scared

and wouldn't let them in."

There have been recent break-ins in the area, Minkoff said.

Niagara Regional Police, who have not identified the teenagers, said they were not wearing flotation suits, but managed to clamber to safety regardless.

Although Const. Derek Watson said the teenagers weren't aware of the condition of the ice in the area, he said it's something people need to be mindful of.

"Know the water you are travelling on. Is it a pond, a lake, a stream? Is there a constant current? Does it flow into or out of the body of water?" he said. "No sport undertaken on ice over bodies of water is ever without risk. Cold weather alone is no guarantee that the ice is safe. Use caution and whenever in doubt, do not go out onto the ice."



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LOCAL NEWS

■ **TWO ARRESTS:** Bar owner says victims 'were just at the wrong place at the wrong time'

Two men stabbed in attack

QMI Agency Niagara

Two men are in custody and two others are being treated for stab wounds after an alterca-

tion in a parking lot off King St. In Highland early Sunday.

The circumstances that led to the two men being wounded

— one age 30, the other 34 — is still being sorted out, but Park Bar owner Nick Albano said it wasn't a knife fight between the

two men, as was first believed.

"These two guys were just at the wrong place at the wrong time," said Albano, who said

the attack happened in a parking lot behind the Rex Hotel on King St.

"It was two friends that were walking to their car and they didn't even know the guys that stabbed them. They just got attacked," he said.

The NRP was called to the Weiland hospital around 2:30 a.m. Sunday after two men in their 30s showed up with stab wounds.

One man, with wounds to his arm, drove himself to the hospital.

The second, with wounds to his face and chest, was driven there by someone else and later transferred by ambulance to a Hamilton hospital for further treatment.

Albano said the second man ran into the Park Bar, at the corner of King St. and Park St. after the incident.

"He came here for help, so we patched him up and got him to

the hospital," he said.

Police spokesman Const. Derek Watson said both men have serious but non-life-threatening wounds.

He said two men — not the ones who sustained the injuries — were arrested Sunday.

"At this time we have two adult males in custody with charges pending, and it's currently under investigation by the Weiland criminal investigation branch," Watson said.

Albano said police were at his establishment Sunday afternoon looking for surveillance footage.

"It's a fairly safe area on King St. It's not like stuff like this happens all the time," said Albano.

The owner said he's hoping things in the area quiet down. His bar was closed temporarily on Jan. 16 after a fire ripped tore through the former Colonial Hotel behind the Park Bar.

"It's been tough," Albano said.

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■ **WASTE DIVERSION:** Proposed changes in stewardship of used batteries put Port Colborne recycling plant at risk

Raw Materials faces raw deal

GREG FURMINGER
(Mill Agency Niagara)

The longevity of a celebrated Port Colborne company and the employment of its 47 workers are at risk if changes are made to the way batteries are recycled.

"It's not only bad for Niagara's economy, but bad for (recycling) programs and the environment," James Ewles, president of Raw Materials Co. (RMC), said Tuesday of a provincial proposal he said will diminish battery disposal standards. "It's a step backwards and a race to the bottom."

Last month, Port Colborne city council drew its support behind the Invertoe Dr. company when it passed a motion warning Ontario Environment Minister Jim Bradley, MP for St. Catharines, that the environment, consumers and the lakeside city's economy will be harmed if Waste Diversion Ontario approves a stewardship plan proposed by CalZiRecycle, an organization backed by the major battery manufacturers.

Approval of that plan, contends Ewles, would open the door for Ontario's waste alkaline batteries to be processed cheaper in the U.S. and at a lower environmental standard.

The City of Port Colborne resolution, circulated to other municipalities for endorsement, requested that the MOE ensure batteries are recycled into reusable commodities and not disposed of through incineration in a smelter.

Ewles said CalZiRecycle has a long-standing relationship with a Pennsylvania smelter, which turns used batteries



It's not only bad for Niagara's economy, but bad for (recycling) programs and the environment."

James Ewles, president of Raw Materials Co.

into a one-time resource as slag for roads.

He said his plant puts battery metals back into the materials stream to be reused and recycled "indefinitely." Other materials such as zinc, manganese and potassium are used in fertilizers.

The company has developed award-winning technology over its past 20 years in existence that enables it to recycle 92% of a single-use battery. The other 8% is paper and plastic waste converted to energy.

In the past three years, RMC has established more than 3,500 used battery collection sites across Ontario.

RMC last year recycled 1.125 million kilograms of alkaline batteries for processing at its Port Colborne plant.

That's a portion of the 2,000 tonnes of all types of batteries it collected, including rechargeable batteries, which are shipped elsewhere for processing.

Ewles said WDO, if it approves changes to stewardship laws, is choosing to ignore the high standards set to a great degree

by RCM.

"If it's not broken, why try to fix it?"

Bradley said WDO operates under its own authority and that the ministry has no role in the review of battery stewardship. He

also said as environment minister he could not comment on the matter, nor, as a result, could he comment from a Niagara politician's perspective on RMC's concerns.

He did, however, say that any changes to regulations "must be

equal to or superior" to what is in effect and that a "very compelling case" would need to be argued to change the status quo.

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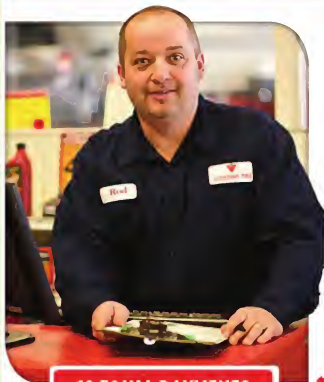
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■ BUSINESS: Recognizing excellence

Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber looking for award nominees

MELISSA MANGELSEN
InPort News Staff

The Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating the best of 2013 at its annual President's Awards Reception April 2 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The chamber will hand out awards for youth citizen of the year, junior youth citizen of the year, citizen of the year, new business of the year, women in business and the business of the year. Individuals and businesses are nominated by their peers, not the chamber.

John Maloney, president of the Port

Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce, said they're looking for nominations for all six categories.

"The awards are prestigious and it's great because you're nominated by your peers and voted on by the directors at the chamber. Our biggest problem is that we get so many excellent candidates it makes the decision very difficult," he said.

The citizen of the year award has been around since the 1980s, but the chamber has gradually taken it over and added the five other categories.

See **AWARDS** on Page 16

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■ AWARDS

Chamber looking for nominations for awards

From Page 14
Last year's awards went to Ricci's Auto Truck and Industrial Repair (business of the year), Robert Shibley (citizen of the year), Eatly Foods

Inc. (new business of the year), Jordan Muehlebloo, Port Colborne high school (youth citizen of the year), Donna Martens Gamn, 91.7 Giant FM (employee of the year) and Gail Todd, Something Else (women in business award).

The ceremony will be held at the Italian Canadian Cultural Centre, 233 Bell St. in Port Colborne.

Nominations for the President's Awards Reception must be received by

the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce by the end of the day Feb. 15. Submissions have to include why the business/person merits the consideration. Submissions can be submitted in person at 76 Main St. W. in Port Colborne, via e-mail at office@pcwchamber.com or by phone at 905-834-9765.

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AARON BOGGIO
R.Ph. B.Sc. PHM

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Ask Our

Pharmacists

TREATMENT OF "PINK EYE"



LARRY BOGGIO
R.Ph. B.Sc. PHM (owner)

Pharmacists get many questions about how to treat "pink eye", also known as infectious conjunctivitis. Pink eye can be bacterial or viral. Bacterial pink eye is common in children as they share toys, towels and come in close contact with each other at school and day care. In general however, most cases of pink eye are viral.

Depending on the type of pink eye treatment will differ. Bacterial conjunctivitis can be treated with antibiotic drops. There is no medicinal treatment for viral conjunctivitis.

In 45% to 73% of children with purulent "pink eye" an ear infection is also present. If the eye has a purulent discharge, swelling and burning, this usually points to a bacterial infection. A mild watery discharge with itching, associated with a concurrent upper respiratory infection signals viral conjunctivitis.

Both types of infections are generally self-limiting, (they will resolve on their own with out medication). Most types of bacterial conjunctivitis will resolve within eight days. These infections can be treated to speed up recovery and prevent the spread of the infection. Cold and warm compresses can be used as well as a variety of topical antimicrobial agents. POLYSPORIN drops are available over-the-counter and will cover most pathogens causing bacterial conjunctivitis. Other prescription eye drops are also available.

Bacterial conjunctivitis is contagious as soon as symptoms are present and for as long as there is discharge from the eye, and continue for one to two days after starting the antibiotic.

With viral conjunctivitis compresses are about the only treatment available. If one eye is involved the other eye will become infected within days in about half the cases. Symptoms may worsen for a few days slowly improving over one to two weeks. This condition is contagious before the appearance of symptoms and as long as symptoms last.

If you wear non-disposable contact lenses clean them thoroughly and buy a new storage case. Disposable lenses should be thrown away. Glasses should be worn for the duration of the infection. If you use other drops for treating conditions like glaucoma you should replace these to avoid inadvertent contamination.

To prevent the spread of infection practice good hygiene, washing hands and towels of the infected person.

If you are having trouble with your child's school you can ask the pharmacy for an explanatory note. This helps clear up any misconception they may have regarding the treatment that is necessary, and steps that need to be taken to prevent the spread of the condition.

Please contact your pharmacy or doctor if you have any further questions regarding this condition.

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This coming from a customer who had tried every other natural remedy under the sun in the past few years to take away her pain. Ian, the owner of The Healthy Cupboard couldn't believe his ears. He had finally found the perfect product to stop his customer's miseries. This is what every owner of a health food store dreams about, a natural product that receives so many outstanding testimonials on such a wide variety of health issues. "I had recommended a new product called LeafSource, which we recently started carrying. We have had tremendous success with this product, and almost everyone we have recommended it to over the last few months has come back and thanked us over and over again," said Ian. Before trying LeafSource, the woman had complained about her ongoing joint pain and was at her wit's end. Although she had experienced some relief through the numerous natural remedies she had tried over the years, the pain would never fully go away. "She returned to my store, in tears, less than one week after buying LeafSource. I didn't know what to make of this woman standing in front of me crying, until she told me that within a few days of taking LeafSource her pain started to disappear and within a week it was completely gone - as if it was never there," Ian goes on, "This coming from a woman whose painful joints and ongoing sciatica were so bad just one week earlier, that the pain was unbearable but now has completely subsided." By now you are probably wondering what is LeafSource and

why is it so effective? LeafSource is a 100% natural product derived from a proprietary organic mineral complex with over ten years of university research. LeafSource helps regulate the inflammatory process and the body's ability to repair itself. The vast majority (70 - 80%) of the population over the age of 50 have joint problems — often called osteoarthritis. This is due to the natural (or unnatural) wear and tear on joint tissue that develops through the aging process. With joint inflammation, movement is limited and pain can be constant. LeafSource seems to have the ability to help people get their mobility and zest for life back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e. NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive and inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent anti-inflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking anywhere from 2 to 6 capsules/day.

Typical maintenance is usually 1 capsule twice daily. This product gets results! LeafSource is scientifically validated through more than 10 years of research at 4 universities, including the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mercer University. Aside from its incredible anti-inflammatory and pain reducing ability, it has also been shown to improve the performance of your daily nutrition and vitamin programs. It helps increase the absorption of vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Better absorption = better results! It's almost as if they have become supercharged! LeafSource has also been shown to help enhance energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen hair, skin and nails and improve immune function. To see someone go from intense pain to a new lease on life within a week is truly incredible, imagine being able to move freely without pain. Who wouldn't want to get out of bed in the morning with more energy? It's amazing how much of this stuff we take for granted, until it's gone. Ian adds, "I often recommend that LeafSource be taken with other natural joint products in order to help them work better and provide even faster relief. One of the things I hear most often from people who have tried LeafSource is they just plain feel better, have more energy and less pain. We're so confident, we guarantee LeafSource 100%! That alone should be enough to try this incredible product."

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